Rural Electrification

†2574. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the situation regarding the use of electricity with a view to uplift the living standard of people in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of homes in rural areas in the country which have been provided with electricity connections so far; and

(c) the estimate regarding quantum of electricity being used by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Rural Electrification Programme is one of the important ingredients for rural development in the country. The Government of India in 1988-89 launched a programme called 'Kutir Jyoti' for extending single point light connection to the households of the rural families below the poverty line including Harijan and Adivasi families to improve the quality of life of such poor families. 38.55 lakh connections have been released by the end of March, 2000 under Kutir Jyoti Programme. REC funded schemes, among others, have resulted in raising the level of village electrification to 86% in the country from a mere 13% in 1969 when REC was set up. Out of a total of 5.87 lakh inhabited villages in the country, 5.06 lakh villages have been electrified by the end of March, 2000. The ground water potential for irrigation through pumpsets is estimated at 196 lakh out of which 124 lakh irrigation pumpsets have been energised by the end of March, 2000.

The Government has also approved a scheme for giving interest rate subsidy of 7.5% for electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis and the target for the current year is 415 tribal villages and 2440 dalit bastis.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) According to the 1991 census, 31% of homes in rural areas have been electrified.

(c) According to 15th Energy Power Survey, the estimated quantum of eectricity used in the agricultural Sector is 94368.98 Kwh Million Units during the year 1998-99. No separate statistic regarding consumption by rural households is available.

Investment in NHPC

†2575. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the National Hydro-Power Corporation for generating power in the country;

(b) if so, the capital invested in this Corporation by the end of March, 2000 and what has been the annual average administrative expenditure of the Corporation during the previous years; and

(c) the power generating capacity achieved by the Corporation so far alongwith the quantum of actual power generated by the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total capital investment till the end of March, 2000 are as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

(i)	Share capital (including share deposit)	4020
(ii)	Govt. of India fund adjustment towards equity	426

NHPC has incurred the following amount on operation, maintenance and administrative expenditure in the last three years on its operational projects:

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